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Lisa Costello Named Director of Women and Gender Studies Program

December 3, 2015



Lisa A. Costello, Ph.D., was named the new Director of Women and Gender Studies (WGST) by Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Curtis Ricker, D.A., and will begin her duties at the start of the spring semester.

Costello came to Georgia Southern University in 2007 after receiving her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from Louisiana State University and has served over eight years in the Department of Writing and Linguistics. She was promoted and tenured at the Associate Professor level in 2013. She served as the Interim Director of the WGST Program in 2009 and has been a core faculty member of the program since her initial hire.

“It is imperative that a university this size with such a diverse student population have a robust and active WGST Program,” Costello said. “I truly believe that with real collaborative work across colleges on this campus, we’ll be able to increase gender and diversity programming and education, and perhaps even more importantly, true understanding and knowledge of all groups, communities and circumstances. I am looking forward to providing the leadership and resources to as an aid to ensure that all students’ experiences are not only academically rigorous, but supportive and personally meaningful.”

Costello’s work is interdisciplinary and her research intersects rhetoric and composition, gender studies, and Holocaust studies. She is currently working on a book project about Holocaust memory and gender tentatively titled *American Cultural Memory and the Holocaust: Per(Form)ing Gender*.

She has worked extensively with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. In 2012 she was selected as one of 20 fellows for the Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar at the USHMM, which explored the Holocaust through the perspective of gender, and she is currently piloting a new digital resource for the museum, which will be housed at the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.

Costello has also been recognized for her teaching in the classroom and was presented with the Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence in 2011. The award goes annually to the Georgia teacher or professor who sets the gold standard in composition-teaching excellence.

Georgia Southern’s Women and Gender Studies Program is an interdisciplinary liberal arts program that seeks to foster an understanding of the ways in which ideologies of gender and sexuality permeate the entire fabric of society. The Program also supports two student organizations that are chapters of national entities: GSU-NOW (National Organization for Women) and URGE (United for Reproductive and Gender Equity). Costello is a faculty advisor for both.

Women and Gender Studies offers an undergraduate minor and a concentration that enhances a variety of careers paths including law, human resources, business, education, and government. To learn more about Georgia Southern’s Women and Gender Studies program visit cah.georgiasouthern.edu/wgender.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student’s core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University’s College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations and the world. CLASS offers more than 20 undergraduate degrees and several interdisciplinary minors from its 11 departments and five academic centers. CLASS offers eight master’s degrees, two graduate certificates and one doctoral degree. For more information, visit cah.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University, a public Carnegie Doctoral/Research University founded in 1906, offers more than 125 degree programs serving more than 20,500 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. Georgia Southern is recognized for its student-centered and hands-on approach to education. GeorgiaSouthern.edu.

